

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a magneto-resistive element including: a substrate, a metal artificial lattice film in which a magnetic thin film and a non-magnetic metal thin film are alternately laminated in at least two layers on a part of this substrate and formed into a predetermined pattern; and a protective layer covering the metal artificial lattice film on the substrate. The magnetic thin film is an alloy film made of nickel (Ni), iron (Fe), and cobalt (Co). As for the percentage composition of the materials based on the number of atoms, nickel (Ni) ranges from 1 to 5 atomic%, cobalt (Co) ranges from 50 to 95 atomic %, and the residue is iron.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, in the magneto-resistive element of the present invention, the amount of sodium ions (Na^+), potassium ions (K^+), and chlorine ions (Cl^-) contained in the first protective layer is up to 10 ~~ppm~~ ppm each. This content can prevent changes in the resistance and magnetic characteristics of the metal artificial lattice film caused by the entry of these ions.